Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 SAJ-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 NIC-01

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R 191705Z AUG 74 FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5003 INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA AMEMBASSY BELGRADE USMISSION NATO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, YO, GR

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV DEPUTY PM VISITS GREECE

1. MILOS MINIC, DEPUTY PM AND FEDERAL FOREIGN SECRETARY OF YUGOSLAVIA, ARRIVED IN ATHENS FROM BELGRADE AUGUST 17. HE CATEGORIZED HIMSELF AS SPECIAL ENVOY OF PRESIDENT TITO. ANNOUNCED THAT THE CARRIED A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO BOTH PRESIDENT GHIZIKIS AND PM CARAMANLIS FROM TITO. AND THAT HIS MISSION CONCERNED THE CYPRUS CRISIS. MINIC FURTHER ASSERTED HIS HOPE THAT HIS PRESENCE HERE WOULD MARK" MILESTONE IN TRADITIONAL FRIENDLY RELATIONS LINKING GREECE WITH YUGOSLAVIA". IN REPLY TO ARRIVAL STATEMENT, GREEK FM MAVROS "PRAISED EXCELLENT RELATIONS OF GREECE WITH YUGOSLAVIA" AND AFFIRMED HIS PLEASURE AT VISIT DUE TO FACT THAT TITO IS THUS "PLACING AT SRVICE OF PEACE THE GREAT PRESTIGE HE POSSESSES NOT ONLY AMONG NON-ALIGNED NATIONS BUT ALSO IN ENTIRE WORLD". LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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2. GREEK PRESS GAVE PROMINENT TREATMENT TO MINIC VISIT FOR ALL ITS WEEKEND EDITIONS. PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN NEWSPAPERS WERE PHOTOGRAPHS OF MINIC WITH PM CARAMANLIS AND FM MAVROS. COMMENT: THE VISIT OF MINIC WHILE ADMITTEDLY SPURRED BY CYPRUS CRISIS, MIGHT ALSO REFLECT DESIRE OF BOTH NATIONS TO UTILIZE NEW GOVERNMENT IN GREECE AS OPPORTUNITY FOR BETTERING BILATERAL RELATIONS. AVGHI--LEFTIST MORNING DAILY--PERHAPS TESTS OUTERMOST LIMITS OF VISITS SIGNIFICANCE BY HEADLINING "AFGER WITHDRAWAL FROM MILITARY ARM OF NATO, A CHANGE OF PATH". TASCA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESIDENTIAL MISSIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 19 AUG 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATHENS05846

Document Number: 1974ATHENS05846 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D740228-0416

From: ATHENS

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740838/aaaabgfh.tel Line Count: 73

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EUR Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a

Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: boyleja

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 15 MAY 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by boyleja>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: YUGOSLAV DEPUTY PM VISITS GREECE

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, YO, GR, (MINIC, MILOS), (GHIZIKIS), (CARAMANLIS)

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005